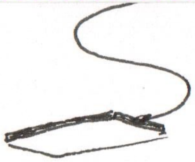
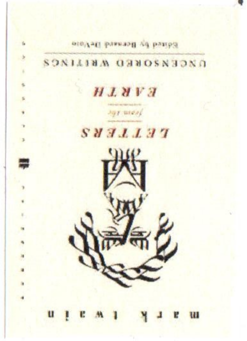
ain't nuthin'
here,
dawg.

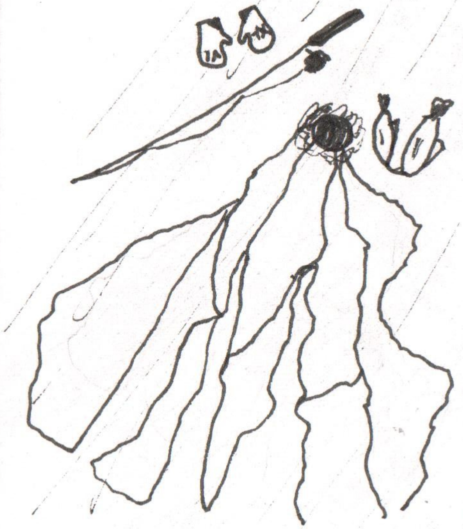
the other day
 i was giving a
presentation on social
media for a class of kids
and brought up how
 addictive it is
deliberately designed to
be - and i asked if they
ever noticed how so many
grownups just keep
scrolling, engrossed
 and one kid said 'i have
to beg my mom and dad to
play with me'
and he looked like he was
 going to cry
and it broke my heart.



You Should Read



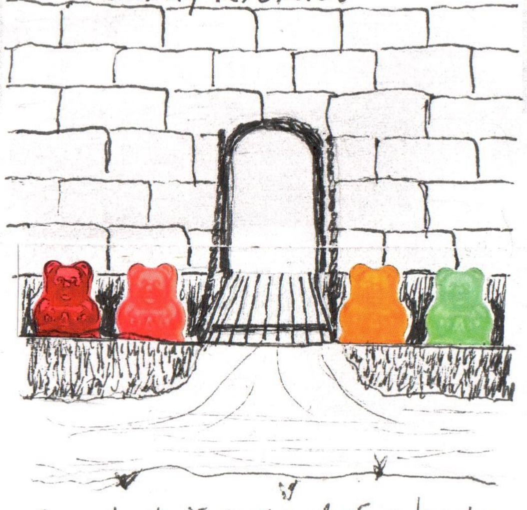
"Letters from the Earth" and "The Mysterious Stranger" are "Dark Twain" written by a sorrowing genius near the end of his life, and they hit hard as meditations on human frailty, religion, virtue, and our place in the universe - hard enough that they were published posthumously. If all you know is "comedy Twain," give this a look.



"What we have
loved,
others will love,
and we will
teach them
how."

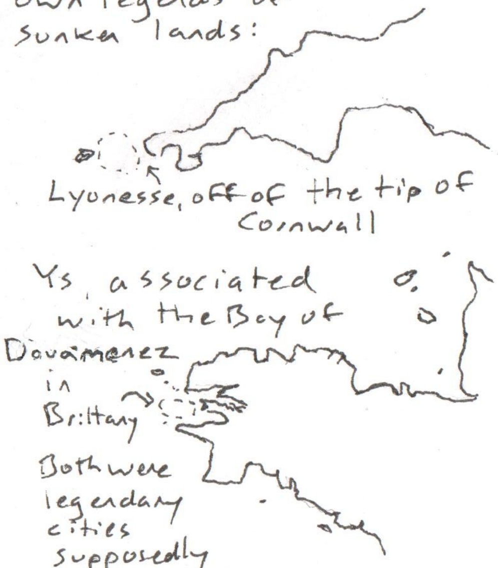
Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 12/4/24
trvose@hotmail.com

Český Krumlov



So what if instead of a boring water moat for your castle, you filled a trench with LIVE BEARS?
It was very much real in the medieval Czech Republic - and there's still one there today.

Interestingly, two Celtic areas each have their own legends of sunken lands:

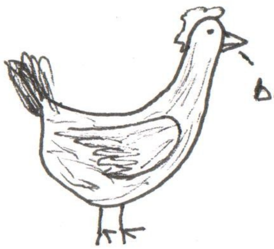


Lyonesse, off of the tip of Cornwall

Ys, associated with the Bay of Douarnenez in Brittany

Both were legendary cities supposedly drowned for their sins, with a lone survivor telling the tale.

nothing here
but
us
chickens.

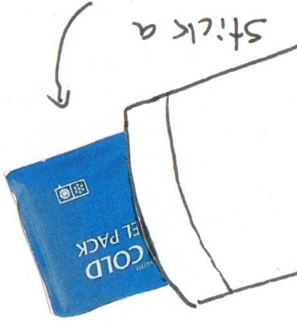


Since Last Time

- Learned a new way to fold these things (thanks, Bex!)
- Watched my son die on stage (but, like, in a good way)
- Dealt with a literal shitshow at work
- invented a dumb new font
- Launched a Battle of the Books
- Buried a hamster
- Learned that a 'spurtle' is not something naughty
- Failed at smoking chicken
- Resumed my trivi-ating duties
- Read a bunch of spooky shit

Saw Poe's hair →

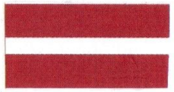
PRO. TIP: If you, like me, don't have AC-



Stick a freezy pack in your pillowcase at night to rest your head on.
(I, for one, can't sleep if it gets too hot)

Latvija

Their national library → is called the *Castle of Light* and looks amazing.

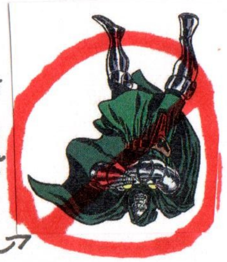


nice, easy flag (possibly signifies bloodstains left by a guy lying in the middle of a sheet)

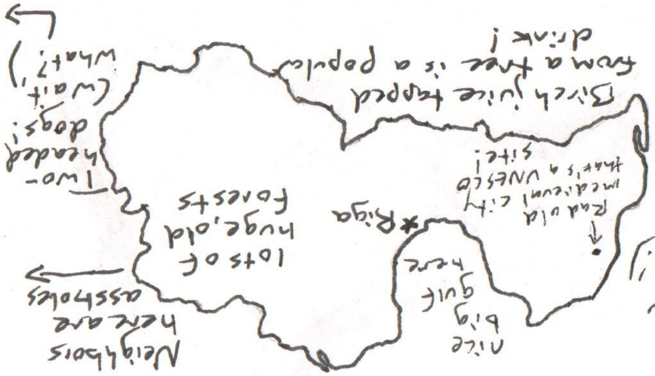
Managed to get independent from a decaying USSR via a nonviolent "Singing Revolution" asserting their cultural independence!

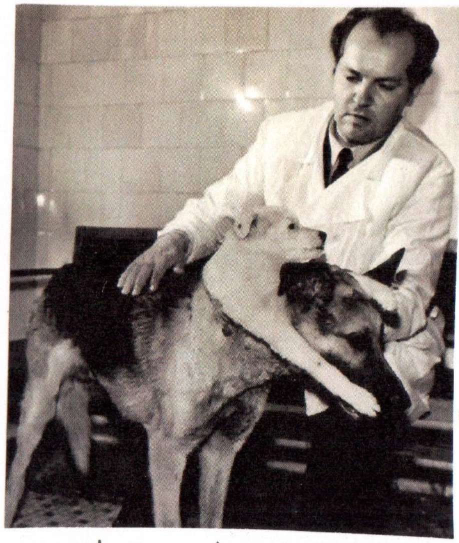
Amber that washes up on the beach!

Really got into art nouveau (which I'm a big fan of!)



no, that's Latveria, and fictional.


nice big gulf here
★Riga
Rad old medieval city that's a UNESCO site!
lots of huge, old forests
Neighbors here are assholes →
Two-headed dogs! (wait, what?)
Birch juice tapped from a tree is a popula drink!



still (probably) not Dr. Doom

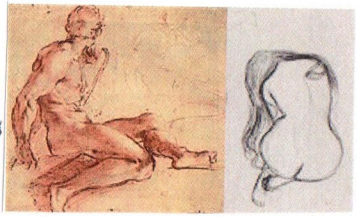
...yeah, two-headed dogs. Vladimir Demikhov here was a Soviet scientist who grafted one dog's head onto another's several times - and plumbed it into the "host" dog's circulation. They did live - briefly. Science! (?)

BURLINGTON SOCK PUPPETS

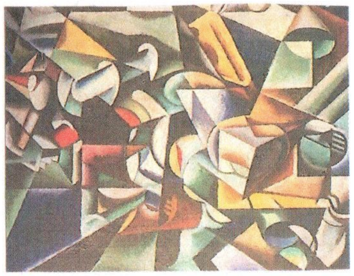
this is a real baseball team in the Appalachian League, based in Burlington, NC.

It tickles me to no end to know this exists.

hot take



I often wonder how much art was a thinly veiled ploy to get attractive people to take their clothes off.

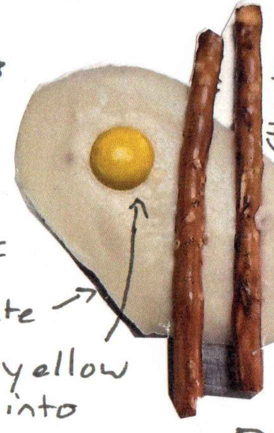


CANDY BACON & EGGS

Melt a small block of white chocolate

Drop a yellow M&M into it.

Add two pretzel sticks.



(thanks, Becky!)

(Discovered at a recent Thanksgiving potluck)